

JUNE 29, 1978

AN OLD-FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A SANDY-HAIRED VIRGINIAN
NAMED THOMAS JEFFERSON WROTE THESE WORDS:

VOICE:

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE
CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THE CREATOR WITH
CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE RIGHTS ARE LIFE,
LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS -- THAT TO SECURE THESE
RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR
JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED, THAT WHENEVER
ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE OF THESE ENDS, IT
IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ALTER OR ABOLISH IT."

TAPE: CUT ONE - MUSICAL EMPHASIS - IN FULL, THEN FADE UNDER:

ANNCR:

THOSE WORDS ARE PART OF THE DECLARATION THAT MADE THE
UNITED STATES AN INDEPENDENT NATION -- AND ON JULY 4, AMERICANS
FROM MAINE TO HAWAII WILL CELEBRATE THAT INDEPENDENCE. OVER
THE YEARS, THE FOURTH OF JULY HAS BEEN CELEBRATED IN MANY
DIFFERENT WAYS -- AND HERE IS -----TO TELL YOU MORE:

NARR:

THE FOURTH OF JULY, TO MOST AMERICANS, MEANS A DAY OF FAMILY
FESTIVITIES -- A DAY TO EAT HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS, DRINK LEMONADE,
EAT WATERMELON, SET OFF FIRECRACKERS AND STAY UP LATE AT NIGHT TO
WATCH THE SKY COME ALIVE WITH FIREWORKS. IT'S A DAY FOR PARADES,
FOR BRASS BANDS PLAYING PATRIOTIC MUSIC, AND FOR WAVING THE FLAG
AND FEELING PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN. BUT IT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN
SO FOR EVERYONE. FOR INSTANCE, ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1852, THE
DISTINGUISHED BLACK ABOLITIONIST FREDERICK DOUGLASS, A FRIEND OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, MADE THIS SPEECH ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HIPPOLYTE

"I AM NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE PALE OF THIS GLORIOUS ANNIVERSARY. YOUR HIGH INDEPENDENCE ONLY REVEALS THE IMMEASURABLE DISTANCE BETWEEN US. THE BLESSINGS IN WHICH YOU THIS DAY REJOICE ARE NOT ENJOYED IN COMMON. THE RICH INHERITANCE OF JUSTICE, LIBERTY, PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE BEQUEATHED BY YOUR FATHERS IS SHARED BY YOU, NOT BY ME. THE SUNLIGHT THAT BROUGHT LIFE AND HEALING TO YOU HAS BROUGHT STRIPES AND DEATH TO ME. THIS FOURTH OF JULY IS YOURS, NOT MINE. YOU MAY REJOICE; I MUST MOURN. TO DRAG A MAN IN FETTERS INTO THE GRAND ILLUMINATED TEMPLE OF LIBERTY AND CALL ON HIM TO JOIN YOU IN JOYOUS ANTHEMS WERE INHUMAN MOCKERY AND SACRELIGIOUS IRONY."

NARR:

THAT WAS ALVIN HIPPOLYTE, A YOUNG ACTOR FROM HOWARD UNIVERSITY WHO WILL REMIND AUDIENCES AT WASHINGTON'S SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION THAT FOR BLACK AMERICANS, THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY WERE HARD-WON. HIPPOLYTE IS ONE OF FIVE PROFESSIONAL ACTORS WHO WILL BE RECITING FAMOUS SPEECHES OF THE PAST OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY DURING A FOUR-DAY CELEBRATION PLANNED TO ILLUSTRATE THE HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- COLLINS

"NOW CONGRESS NEVER REALLY DECLARED AN INDEPENDENCE DAY, BUT JULY THE 4TH IS THE ONE THAT MOST OF THE STATES WENT ALONG WITH OBSERVING AS OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY. IT'S JUST A TRADITION THAT'S GROWN OVER THE YEARS."

NARR:

HERBERT COLLINS IS CURATOR OF THE DIVISION OF POLITICAL HISTORY AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY. HE POINTS OUT THAT DURING THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEEN CENTURIES, THE FOURTH OF JULY WAS CELEBRATED IN A MUCH MORE SOLEMN MANNER THAN IT IS TODAY. USUALLY, IN EVERY AMERICAN CITY, A PUBLIC READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY ONE OR MORE PATRIOTIC SPEECHES.

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TAPE: CUT FOUR -- COLLINS

"IN THE BEGINNING, MANY OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES ATTACHED THEMSELVES TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH OF JULY. FOR INSTANCE, CANDIDATES WOULD ATTACH THEMSELVES TO THE CELEBRATION SO THEY COULD KICK OFF THEIR CAMPAIGN AT THAT TIME. AND IT WAS ALSO A TRAINING GROUND FOR THE GREAT ORATORS OF THE DAY: JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, FOR INSTANCE, MADE HIS FIRST FAMOUS SPEECH AS A FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE, AND SO DID DANIEL WEBSTER. THE LONG SPEECHES WERE A PART OF THE FOURTH OF JULY, AND THEY WERE INDEED, PROBABLY, ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION TO CHANGE PEOPLE GOT VERY TIRED OF THE LONG SPEECHES -- LISTENING TO THEM."

NARR:

SO, BEGINNING AROUND 1826 -- THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE -- MORE FESTIVE WAYS OF CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY BECAME CUSTOMARY. FIREWORKS WERE INTRODUCED AT ABOUT THAT TIME; PARADES BECAME MORE LIVELY. AFTER THE CIVIL WAR HAD ENDED, FAMILY PICNICS ON THE FOURTH CAME INTO FASHION. ONE PRESIDENT, BENJAMIN HARRISON, WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE CHANGE. HE WROTE IN 1897 THAT AMERICANS HAD LOST SIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL REASON FOR THE CELEBRATION, AND MOURNED THE FACT THAT THE POLITICAL SPEECHES AND THE READING OF THE DECLARATION HAD BEEN REPLACED BY PICNICS AND BASEBALL GAMES. HE PREDICTED THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE OLD-FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY. AND THE SMITHSONIAN, BY REMINDING THE PUBLIC OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE PAST, IS TRYING TO MAKE HIS PREDICTION COME TRUE. THE RE-ENACTMENT OF GREAT POLITICAL SPEECHES WILL BE ONLY ONE FACET OF THE FOUR-DAY-LONG FESTIVITIES, HOWEVER. THE PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ENJOY MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES, ALONG WITH MIMES, CLOWNS AND JUGGLERS FROM THIS CENTURY; THEY CAN WATCH CRAFTSMEN SHOWING HOW SHOES, BULLETS AND DRUMS WERE MADE IN COLONIAL DAYS AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF OLD-FASHIONED MUSIC MACHINES.

TAPE: CUT FIVE - "YANKEE DOODLE" PLAYED ON HICKS BARREL ORGAN -- IN FULL BRIEFLY, THEN FADE AND HOLD BEHIND:

NARR:

ALTHOUGH THE FOURTH OF JULY MAY SEEM A FRIVOLOUS OR SUPER-FLUOUS HOLIDAY TO SOME, HERBERT COLLINS POINTS OUT THAT THE PICNICS AND FIREWORKS SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE FACT THAT INDEPENDENCE DAY HAS OFTEN BEEN A UNIFYING, HEALING OCCASION. (MUSIC OUT)

TAPE: CUT SIX -- COLLINS

"YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY, THE CELEBRATION -- THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (IN 1826) CAME ON THE HEELS OF THE SECOND WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SO THAT WE NEEDED SOMETHING THEN; AND THE CENTENNIAL OF 1876 CAME RIGHT AFTER THE CIVIL WAR. THE CELEBRATION IN 1926 CAME RIGHT AFTER THE GREAT WORLD WAR ONE, AND THEN THE CELEBRATION IN 1976 CAME AFTER A PERIOD OF UNREST IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE VIETNAM WAR. SO IT'S STRANGE THAT THROUGH HISTORY, WE HAVE ALWAYS SEEMED TO NEED THIS GREAT CELEBRATION OF RALLYING BEHIND OUR FOUNDING FATHERS AND THE MEANING OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND ALL."

NARR:

LIKE CITIZENS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AMERICANS OFTEN FORGET THE HARDSHIPS THEIR FOREFATHERS ENDURED TO BRING THEM THE BENEFITS THEY ENJOY TODAY. THE FOURTH OF JULY -- NOT JUST IN WASHINGTON, BUT THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES -- WILL BE A TIME FOR THEM TO REMEMBER AND REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THEIR NATION WAS FOUNDED.

TAPE: CUT SEVEN - "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER" PLAYED ON CHICKERING PLAYER PIANO - IN FULL AND PLAY TO TIME

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